



Staff News

*The Electronic Newsletter of the California Youth Authority
By YA Staff – For YA Staff – About YA Staff*

March 18, 2005

Volume 6, Issue 6



Walter Allen III
Director

Message from the Director

Moving Fast Toward Reforming the CYA

I want to take this opportunity to bring you up to date on a variety of topics and events that have recently occurred.

On Jan. 31, 2005, it was announced that the California Youth Authority and Prison Law Office reached an historic agreement on a schedule to “put the juvenile justice system in this state on the road to reform by the end of the year and create a system that is rehabilitative and provides a therapeutic environment for the juvenile offenders committed by the courts.”

This announcement generated much excitement as it reaffirmed to the public, the prison advocates and the press that the CYA is committed to implementing a well-thought out remediation plan that incorporates many needed changes as identified by the Office of the Inspector General, the Bureau of State Audits, PLO and our own expert reports.

For more than a year, remediation teams and experts have been hard at work devising, designing, and often redoing months of work to produce interim remediation plans that the experts and court, alike, will accept. I am exceptionally proud of staff for persevering to produce remediation plans that incorporate the overall vision of a therapeutic environment.

Under the conditions of the agreement, the CYA agreed to meet several deadlines for delivering various remedial plans to the court beginning on Feb. 4 and concluding on Nov. 30 of this year. The plans will

address several areas, including medical care, educational services, mental health care, disability services, sex offender treatment, and ward safety and welfare (formerly General Corrections).

A Medical Care Interim Plan was finalized and filed on Feb. 4 and a Transition Team led by Dr. **Robert E. Morris**, a renowned pediatric specialist from University of California, Los Angeles Medical Center, started the process of assessing needs in the areas of nursing, pharmacology, dentistry, psychiatry, psychology, records administration, budgets and other operational functions. The medical experts, special master and PLO counsel will review the final medical plan.

The Education Remedial Plan was filed on March 1 and the other plans will follow shortly. The stipulation is available on the CYA website www.cya.ca.gov and intranet.

Along with the great team of experts in the YA family, we have developed a strategic

*(Please see **Director**, page four)*

Ventura Wards Receive ‘Makers of Eagles’ Message

By **Monica Frazier**

Treatment Team Supervisor

“Overcome Your Obstacles,” was the theme delivered to 120 young women incarcerated at the Ventura Youth Correctional Facility who attended the “Makers of Eagles” daylong conference at the institution. The January 2005 conference opened with an eloquent plea from the Hon. **Deborah Lewis**, judge of the Long Beach Superior Court, for the wards to seek an education and prepare to be self-sufficient.

This was followed by a keynote address from **Deborah Sanchez**, Los Angeles deputy city attorney, Special Enforcement Unit, who shared observations, personal experiences, poetry and values, which have helped her overcome many obstacles in her life. She delivered a strong message about the power of choices, education, and goal setting.

La Calle News, Inc. sponsored the conference with assistance from California Youth Authority staff and financial support from



Hon. Deborah Lewis, (standing) judge of the Long Beach Superior Court, opened the Makers of Eagles conference held at Ventura YCF.

*(Please see **Eagles**, page two)*

Chad's Santa Letters Bring Smiles to Calaveras County Kids

By **Erin Brock**
PA III

There are many ways to bring joy to children during the holiday season. N. A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Counselor **Katie Henne** spearheaded the "Santa Letters" Public Service Project for the first time in December 2004. This is the fifth year that the facility has participated in writing letters to the children at the Calaveras County Head Start Schools. Twelve schools participate in this fun project which generates more than 150 letters to the children.

Henne and the wards at Chaderjian coined this motto, "the more Santa letters, the merrier for everyone." She explained her motivation this way, "just imagine the twinkles in their eyes and the smiles on their faces when the children read the letters they just received from Santa Claus. It's a precious moment in these children's lives that will last a lifetime."

The Santa Letter Project is one meaningful example of the projects performed yearly by wards at N. A. Chaderjian Youth Correctional Facility. Public service is an important aspect of the growth and change process in a ward's behavior.

Beginning in early December, the wards are as busy as Santa's elves preparing the creative mailboxes for the letters, designing the artistic stationery that Santa will sign and, most importantly, responding to the children's letters.

N. A. Chaderjian also held a Christmas decorating contest. All dorms participated with wards working together to achieve a common goal. The dorms looked especially festive and the winning decision was very difficult for the judges to make.

The first place winner of the Chief Deputy Director award was Feather Hall - a \$100 prize. The second place winner of the Deputy Director award went to American Hall - \$100 and the third place winner of the Superintendent award went to Smith Hall - \$100. In keeping with the spirit of the holidays, all other halls received a \$50 consolation prize. The judges of the contest were Chief Deputy Director **Silvia H. Garcia**, Deputy Director **Yvette Marc-Aurele** and Superintendent **Steve Kruse**. A great big thank you to the staff, wards and the judges for all of their hard work and support!

PS&CC Retirements 25-Year Achievements December 2004

25 Years

Valeta Miraglio
Parole Agent III
YATC

Retirements

Diann Bernstein
Parole Agent I
Covina Parole
State Service: 26 yrs.
Retirement Date: Dec. 30, 2004

Lloyd Brown
Regional Administrator
Southern Region Parole
State & YA Service: 30 yrs.
Retirement Date: Dec. 31, 2004

Betty Davila
Executive Secretary
Northern Region Parole
State Service: 38 yrs.
YA Service: 31 yrs.
Retirement Date: Dec. 30, 2004

Eagles...*(From page one)*

local businesses, organizations and VYCF's Kiwin's Club.

La Calle News, Inc. provided 20 volunteers as workshop speakers, trained in techniques to facilitate positive group discussions on sensitive topics. Most of the speakers are professional women who have had personal experiences with domestic violence, sexual abuse, substance abuse, single parenthood, and other challenges.

The young women enjoyed breakfast pastries, ice cream, and juices donated by *La Calle News, Inc.* Special entertainment was provided by seven-year-old **Kryssa**, who performed several dance routines and VYCF's own dance troupe.

The workshops continued in the afternoon and the conference concluded with a joint session for all participants. Gifts of t-shirts, stationery, envelopes, and bookmarks were given to the participants. The speakers and young women of VYCF enjoyed the conference and expressed their desire to participate in similar events.



Dorothy Castillo (left), representing the Lincoln Juarez Opportunity Center, teamed up with Marilyn Luna (right), a financial advisor, to provide wards with knowledge about opportunities available to them.

Television's Judge Mathias Reaches Out to SYCRCC Wards at MAFTA Youth Festival

By **Liam D. Cowan**
Program Administrator

Recently, a message of love, with laughter and a dazzling hip-hop show was offered to more than 200 wards. Nearly the entire population of the Southern Youth Correctional Reception Center and Clinic came together in the gymnasium for an evening of inspiration, self-reflection and entertainment.

Longtime California Youth Authority volunteer **Melanie Washington**, director of the non-profit foundation Mentoring A Touch From Above, worked with the administration and staff to develop the evening program. The program, MAFTA Youth Festival, was designed to focus SYCRCC's youthful offenders on equal measures of responsibility, hope for the future, and the widespread interest of the community in providing them support in their efforts to change.

The keynote speaker for the program was well-known television personality Hon. Judge **Greg Mathis**, host of the syndicated "Judge Mathis" television court show.

The judge shared his recollections of an

adolescence marked by violence, drug use, gang involvement, and repeated arrests, all of which eventually landed him in jail. Once released, however, he obtained a GED, enrolled in college, obtained a degree in law, and became the youngest attorney in Michigan's history to become a judge.

Mathis urged the wards to develop self-respect, pursue their education, and apply the same energy they devoted to anti-social living to the cultivation of a positive and productive life. Mathis' words, delivered with warmth, humor, and authority, were well received by all in attendance. **Charles Buchanan**, SYCRCC Family Council Co-chair and MAFTA board member, persuaded Mathis to visit Norwalk and participate in the Youth Festival.

The evening also included a speech by the indefatigable Washington, who has endured the pain of personal violence, and the murder of her son, mother, sister, and husband. Washington, as well as community

youth mentors implored the wards to be accountable for their actions and develop the wisdom needed to change their lives. A highlight of the evening was the entertainment provided by a "gospel-rap" group that had the audience singing and dancing to songs composed to inspire and motivate.

Additional attendees included Director **Walter Allen III**, Superintendent **Viviana Martinez**, the SYCRCC Parent Advisory Committee, MAFTA board members, numerous mentors, in addition to SYCRCC staff members and the entire SYCRCC management team.

Several members of the press and television stations reported on the youth conference.

Attention Golfers, First Call!

42nd Annual Skip Ottoson Golf Classic Paso Robles Golf Club

The tournament is scheduled on the same weekend of the Paso Robles Wine Festival so it is important to make hotel reservations early. Registration packets will be in the mail in April. If you want information sent to you, please contact Terri Willis at (805) 238-4040, ext. 2521.

If you are a golfer and have not played in a Skip Ottoson tournament, you should make every effort to attend this year. The Paso Robles Golf Club is as picturesque, as it is challenging.



El Paso de Robles YCF Superintendent (A) Dave Bacigalupo uses a shotgun to start play.

VYCF Conducts 25-Year Service Recognition Celebration

On Jan. 20, 2005, a ceremony was held to honor Ventura Youth Correctional Facility staff who have completed 25 years of state service. VYCF staff and family members attended this event, emceed by Chief of Security **David Finley**. Honorees included:

Rodney Basinger
Treatment Team Supervisor
Chris Correa
Supervisor of Nursing
Roderick Dixon
Youth Correctional Officer
Monica Frazier
Treatment Team Supervisor
Daniel Mellenthin
Stationary Engineer
Tessie Scott
Personnel Services Specialist
Joseph Shofner
Treatment Team Supervisor
James White
Youth Correctional Counselor

Director...(From page one)

plan for the CYA as part of the reorganization of plan. Together with Chief Deputy Director **Silvia H. Garcia**, we have produced a plan that specifies the vision, mission, and values, as well as strategies, of the new Youth Operations.

This strategic plan, as well as the remedial plans, are road maps for the necessary reforms that must be made in the California Youth Authority. One of the key steps to implementing these reforms is the development of a classification system.

The interim classification system that will be online shortly will help eliminate some of the major problems that have plagued the Youth Authority for many years.

This system will be utilized to conduct an accurate intake risk and needs assessment, security assessments, valid parole risk, as well as assist the treatment team in tailoring medical, psychotherapy, educational, pharmacological and counseling services to the wards.

Many changes are occurring in the CYA -- changes for the better. I would appreciate your comments and feedback.

Mark Your Calendar
CYA 2004 Medal of Valor
Ceremony
May 13, 2005
Details to Follow

Pine Grove Wards Set Sights on Raising \$1,200 for Tsunami Victims



*Pine Grove Camp Fire Fighters **Redar Panyanouvang** and **Leng Vue** (above) are not novices to nature's destructive forces having witnessed the widespread destruction and personal loss caused during last year's wild land fire season. Seeing news coverage of the recent tsunami disaster in Asia, they were moved to do something for the victims. After developing a plan to donate funds raised by wards to the American Red Cross Tsunami Relief Fund, they enlisted the support of Camp Canteen Manager **Tammy Johnson** and Office Manager **Linda Brizzi**. Together, they organized a series of special canteen sales that have raised more than \$720, a sum that is well on the way to meeting their goal of \$1,200. The most recent fund raising promotion was the sale of Valentine's Day items for wards to give to family and friends at visiting day or to send by mail.*

This ward-initiated fund raising effort is a continuation of Pine Grove Camp's community involvement and is an integral part of preparing young men for their productive return to society.

A Message of Hope and Inspiration Through Gang Intervention

By **Harvey Casillas**
Gang Violence Reduction Coordinator

The newly established Gang Intervention Section within the I&C Branch, headed by Departmental Gang Coordinator **Larry Miranda**, is committed to working as a liaison with all facilities to reduce gang violence within the Youth Authority. One intervention strategy is to use volunteers to provide services, conduct workshops and make presentations to wards. These strategies are designed to make facilities safer, improve opportunities for wards, and reduce the overall level of gang violence by providing alternatives to gang activity.

On Jan. 11, 2005, motivational speaker **Richard "Kevin" Kemp**, spoke to 51 wards on American Hall at N.A. Chaderjian Youth

Correctional Facility. He was released from San Quentin Prison in May 2003 after serving nearly 20 years. During his presentation he spoke of his determination to grow and change despite his long period of incarceration. His comments were so inspirational, uplifting, and well received, that he was asked to return two weeks later and make another presentation to wards on Tuolumne Hall.

Kemp's presentations are dynamic and the wards that participated were not disappointed. His message is simple, "the positives always outweigh the negatives. No matter what, keep doing what's right and eventually good things will start to happen."

He shared his personal story with wards about his first day in prison. An inmate approached him and informed him about a meeting that would take place the next day on the yard. The inmate told him, "be there or you'll be on your own." Later that evening, while contemplating his decision to attend the meeting, he saw an ad on TV that said, "How would you like to earn a college degree while in prison?" He explains his choice was simple after comparing gang members to classmates, cuffs to books, lock-up to classroom -- he chose school and earned an AA degree in sociology. He jokingly tells the group, "while others were pumping iron, I was pumping knowledge."

*(Please see **Kemp**, page seven)*

In Memory Of John J. Galvez

Sept. 7, 1934 – Jan. 21, 2005

By **Julio C. Calderon**
Staff News Editor

I have written many obituaries over the years as editor of the 'Green Sheet' but this one is particularly difficult. **John J. Galvez** was my friend. In the course of managing my way through 61 years of life, I have met and worked with many men in many different fields. Some through military duty; then television news reporting, and through my community involvements -- few have found a soft corner in my heart -- that corner reserved for brothers. John Galvez is one of those men.

The *Sacramento Bee* quoted his son, **Steven Galvez**, who related an incident in an institution where John calmed a situation with a ward. "While other counselors struggled with the angry youth, Mr. Galvez put his arm around the boy's neck and gave him a big kiss on the cheek," Steven Galvez said. "The ward started to cry, saying he couldn't remember either of his parents giving him a kiss on the cheek," Galvez said, "That was the end of the incident."

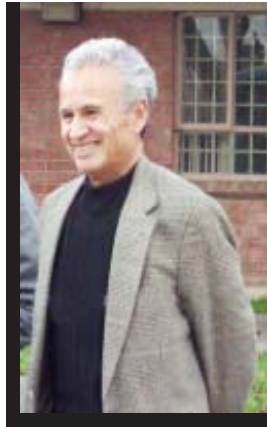
Hugging an angry young man to calm him was the same effect his ready smile and

a hug had on a friend he hadn't seen for some time -- or someone he met for the first time. That is who John was at work and in his private life. We all knew about the cancer he was struggling against -- but I never heard him speak of it. He never talked to me about his pain or troubles. He only asked how I was doing.

John worked more than 30 years at the YA touching many young minds. We will miss him.

John joined the CYA in 1970 as a group supervisor at Preston. He also worked at DeWitt Nelson YCF, Northern California Youth Correctional Reception Center and Clinic and at Central Office during his more than 30-year career. He was also a musician and a marathoner.

He is survived by his wife of 45 years, **Gloria Galvez**, his son, **Steven Galvez** of Sacramento, and his daughter, **Paula Fendick** of Elk Grove, as well as four grandchildren and six brothers and sisters.



John Galvez at the Northern Youth Correctional Reception Center and Clinic closure in March 2004.

John J. Galvez Scholarship Fund

The John Galvez family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorial remembrances may be made to the **John J. Galvez Scholarship Fund**, Latino Peace Officers' Association, P. O. Box 580565, Elk Grove, CA. 95758.

Justice Isn't
Served Until Crime
Victims Are



In Loving Memory of a Wonderful Lady Cathy Gunderson

May 21, 1949 – Jan. 11, 2005
Retired after 33 years with the CYA

By **Cindy Martin**
Retired Return to Work Coordinator

On hearing of the passing of a very dear friend, **Cathy Gunderson**, I had a need to write this article for *Staff News* of my memories of her. When I began working at the O. H. Close Youth Correctional Facility as a return to work coordinator a few years ago, I had heard that Cathy would be helpful in training me. I felt assured I could perform my duties, knowing she knew the Workers' Comp area for more than 30 years.

While working with Cathy, I gained her friendship, trust, and respect. I knew I could go to her for any advice whether it was professional or personal and she would keep it confidential. She was helpful and supportive. She was an extremely intelligent human being and had an extraordinary humorous attitude about situations and life.

As a return to work coordinator she would go the extra mile for her fellow co-workers. Cathy was the "rock" for all other staff and other return to work coordinators. I understand she wrote the desk reference book for return to work coordinators.

Cathy enjoyed her "girls" (dogs) and treated them like they were her children and spoke to them often. Cathy enjoyed gardening and played the piano and liked to sing. She also loved Mexican food. **Pat McCann**, **Naomi Nyberg** and I shared many a lunch with her.

Cathy is at rest now with her mother, father and two girls; and I pray that she is at peace. I believe that I speak for all her friends and family when I say that I will miss her sense of humor and caring personality...we love you, Cathy.



Staff News
The Electronic Edition

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Employees of the Month

December 2004

Ventura

Dan Mellenthin

Stationary Engineer

January 2005

Ventura

Pam Smith

Vocational Instructor

Preston

Noreen Lafferty

Institutional Personnel Manager

N. A. Chaderjian

Marna Hawkins

Parole Agent

Heman G. Stark

Connie Telebrico

Registered Nurse

O. H. Close

Tom Kirkbride

Parole Agent

February 2005

Preston

Barry Gold

Sergeant

N. A. Chaderjian

Katie Henne

Youth Correctional Counselor

Heman G. Stark

Rick McCabe

Youth Correctional Counselor

O.H. Close

Don Cross

Vocational Instructor

Amador County Kids Get New Bikes Prepared at Preston YCF

By *Glen Villa*
Preston PIO

Wards in **Emet Baxter's** vocational class at the Preston Youth Correctional Facility assembled more than 160 bikes that were delivered to disadvantaged children in Amador County on Christmas Eve. Local citizen **Ron Abel** collected donations from around the county and raised between \$5,000 and \$6,000 for the bikes.

The names of the needy children were provided by various local organizations including the Angel Tree, the Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency, churches and schools.

Notes from Chad

By *Erin Brock*
Program Administrator

Tsunami Relief

McCloud Special Counseling Program wards raised \$104 and donated the money to the Tsunami Relief Fund. This project was spear-headed by **Mike Merriweather**, parole agent of McCloud. Kudos to Mike and the wards of McCloud.

Donations to Battered Women's Shelter

As a result of several fundraisers, N.A. Chaderjian collected \$2700 that will be donated to the San Joaquin County Battered Women's Shelter. A great big "thank you" to those staff that coordinated the events and to the wards for stepping up to the plate and donating money to this organization.

Wards Send 'Hearts' to Troops

In January Youth Correctional Counselor **Katie Henne** decided that it would be great if the wards sent Valentine's day cards to our troops. The wards

supported the idea and set off to make as many cards as they could.

Using construction paper and their artistic talents, the wards produced 450 handmade Valentine's Day cards. They not only drew the cards, they also wrote all of the messages in them.

The cards were divided equally between those sent to soldiers in Iraq and those in Veterans hospitals.

The project also included a contest. The the hall that produced the most Valentine cards received \$75; second place received \$50, with \$25 going to third place. Also, the top six donors were treated to one hour of open recreation at the gym.

Safety Zone Employee of the Month

Parole Agent **Terry Bickle** has been selected the "Safety Zone" employee of the month of February for suggesting that dining room locks be changed so access is limited to wards by making them lock on both sides.

Ventura Connects Offenders With Families for Holidays

By *Al Palomino*
Ventura YCF PIO

The innovative "Get on the Bus" program returned to the California Youth Authority Ventura Youth Correctional Facility on Dec. 18, 2004. With the assistance of the local Kiwins organization, local religious groups, the facility chaplains hosted the worthwhile event to help connect young female offenders with their children and family members.

The "Get on the Bus" program provides transportation, meals, and activities for the family members of female wards who would otherwise not be able to visit. The Camarillo facility is the only CYA institution in the state that houses females, therefore, many family members live a great distance away from the facility.

Event coordinator, Catholic Chaplain **Catherine Conneally-Salazar**, organized the first "Get on the Bus" program in May 2004 for Mothers' Day. The event helped

create a stronger link between female CYA offenders and their families living far away from the institution.

According to Conneally-Salazar, the Kiwin's Club, established at the CYA Camarillo facility, staged fundraisers to finance the "Get on the Bus" program. Several religious volunteers assisted with many activities on the day of the event: the Asencion Lutheran Church of Thousand Oaks, headed by Pastor **Larry Wagner**, collected gifts for all children in attendance and provided face painting for the children; New Life Church of Oxnard brought Santa Claus and helpers to distribute gifts; the Four Square Church of Thousand Oaks collected clothing for the children of the CYA wards; and the Associates of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet in Camarillo donated centerpieces and decorations for the visit.

This Is Your Staff News

This is your *Staff News*. We need your participation by sending stories on events and special programs at your location to share with all YA staff. Please send your stories and pictures to StaffNewsMailbox@cya.ca.gov.

A Success Story...

Pak Shooting Hoops for Utah State

The list of California Youth Authority parolees who have gone from parole to successful careers in numerous fields is long. What is short is the list of these successful parolees being featured in a newspaper. Recently, **Curtis Zupke**, reporter for the *Orange County Register*, featured a young man named **David Pak**, a former CYA parolee, on his way to a successful life.

Zupke first contacted the Communications Office for information on Pak more than a year ago. At that time Pak was a starter on the Saddleback Community College basketball team. Now, Pak is playing basketball for Utah State University.

Pak's success is being measured on the basketball court of a major university. But he did not get there on his talents on the courts alone, he also had to excel in academics to win scholarships at both schools.

What turned this kid around? The first ingredient was Pak's determination; the second ingredient was Heman G. Stark Youth Correctional Counselor **Derek Hamaguchi** who introduced Pak to the discipline needed to develop his basketball skills. Hamaguchi was also responsible for making contact with coach **Bill Brummel** at Saddleback, who decided to ignore Pak's past and give this determined young man a "shot." He did so

because Pak was totally honest about his past.

Zupke wrote this about Pak in the *O. C. Register*: "Pak's personal comeback is paralleled by a remarkable ascent on the basketball court. After eight years of organized basketball, Pak became first-team All-Orange Empire Conference as a freshman and earned consecutive MVP honors when he helped the Gauchos reach the semi-finals last season."

Coach Brummel and Utah State Coach **Stew Merrill** also deserve recognition in this success story. Both men were willing to overlook Pak's past because they recognized something in this young man that allowed them to give scholarships to a sex offender.

Ventura's Female Fire Fighters Impacted by Mudslide Rescue Mission

Ever since the Ben Lomond Youth Conservation Camp opened in 1947, firefighting wards have been involved in almost every major catastrophe that has inflicted pain, death and destruction in California. These events have come in the form of earthquakes, floods and fires, where wards have responded to scenes where citizens have been impacted by an act of God. They do so, conquering their own fear, with swiftness and efficiency, and with little recognition from the general public.

There is satisfaction in knowing that they saved a home from a fire, or a community from rushing waters that overflowed a river's banks. There is also the impact that the witnessing of human suffering causes that lingers long after the event.

Recently, *Ventura County Star* reporter **Marjorie Hernandez** wrote a story for the

newspaper about the emotional impact suffered by members of the S. Carraway Ventura Public Service and Fire Center Crew 5 (14 female wards). The crew was assigned to assist in the rescue efforts following the La Conchita mudslide.

While two male ward crews also participated in the rescue efforts, Hernandez focused on the females, and the aftereffects that the operation had on the young women.

"Even nearly a month later, some of the 14 female wards in Crew 5 who assisted in the weeklong rescue and recovery effort have had difficulty coping since the deadly disaster on Jan. 10," she wrote. "It has left an indelible impact on the young women, with some needing to participate in group or individual counseling sessions..."

According to the article, these young women worked side-by-side with **Jimmie Wallet** as he frantically dug into the 30-foot

mound of mud searching for his wife and three children. They watched him go from digging and calling their names – to praying for them. And when the rescue mission turned to recovery, Wallet hugged each of the young women thanking them for their work and caring. This experience gave the young women a sense of community unlike any other event in their lives.

CDC Fire Captain in charge of Crew Five said of his crew, "they worked hard, day in and day out, when they were there, but they felt the need to contribute...to be part of the community," he told Hernandez.

The young women contributed more than just their hard work; they also raised \$120 for the La Conchita Mudslide Victims Fund.

Editor's note: We want to thank Ms. Hernandez for telling their story.

Kemp...(From page four)

While in prison, Kemp was involved with many self-help programs for inmates. He co-founded and co-authored workshops and curriculums for many programs. He also was a certified trainer and held several certifications for issues dealing with fatherhood awareness and male accountability. In addition, he conducted workshops on HIV/AIDS, peer counseling, facilitated life skills workshops, and worked with group homes, juvenile facilities, and parent groups to deter youth from anti-social behavior.

Kemp resides in Stockton and has remarried his former wife, whom he lost while incarcerated. He has also reconnected with his grown children. He works full time for

the Rescue Gospel Mission as a substance abuse counselor and attends the University of the Pacific during the evenings. His most recent accomplishment was being a special guest on the "Larry King Live Show" to discuss how **Scott Peterson** will live on Death Row. Kemp spent three years working as the Death Row clerk while at San Quentin.

Presentations such as Kemp's may generate skepticism among some staff and wards. This skepticism is normal, sometimes deserved and to be expected, for most people do not want to go through a false promise or "program" of change. However, this is not a "program." It is a dialogue on

the truths of life. Much like braces on crooked teeth...a little bit of pressure applied over an extended period of time brings about an improvement and can even make a total correction. We need to continue providing presentations that apply pressure to the way the wards currently think. In time, change may occur for many of them.

Kemp is available to speak to wards at the Northern California Youth Correctional Center in Stockton twice a month. If you would like to request a presentation on your dorm or for your institution, or if you have any questions, please contact **Harvey Casillas**, Gang Violence Reduction Coordinator at (209) 948-3685.